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Senate effort to help students displaced by Hurricane Katrina

LANSING – Action today by the Michigan Senate would assist school districts in taking in students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, announced Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood. The chamber approved an amendment to the state school-aid bill that would allow districts to count evacuated students toward their per-pupil funding amount.

“The terrible destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina has sparked tremendous outpouring of giving,” Hardiman said. “Helping educate hurricane victims who already have lost everything is one part of the way Michigan residents are contributing.”

The amendment would allow the Michigan Department of Education to include affected students who enroll in a district past the normal count date.

Since Proposal A, Michigan school districts are funded on a “per-pupil” basis meaning the amount of funding each district receives is directly related to the number of students enrolled. Under the amendment, schools will receive funding for displaced students even if they were not enrolled at the time of the fall student count.

The Michigan Department of Education has also sent information to school superintendents throughout the state to facilitate the provision of educational services to any evacuees in need.

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